

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO  
3 NO. 08-0046 JB/RLP

4 JUAN MATA,  
5 Plaintiff,

6 vs.  
7 SGT. RON ANDERSON,  
8 Defendant.

9  
10  
11 VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF JUAN MATA  
12 VOLUME 2

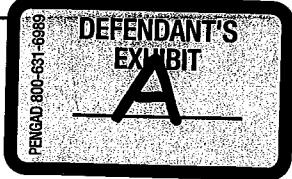
13 Wednesday, July 8th, 2009  
14 9:20 a.m.

15 MODRALL, SPERLING, ROEHL, HARRIS & SISK, P.A.  
16 500 Fourth Street, Northwest, Suite 600  
17 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

18 PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL  
19 PROCEDURE, this deposition was:

20 TAKEN BY: MS. ERIN E. LANGENWALTER  
21 ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANT

22 REPORTED BY: MICHELE M. TRUJILLO, CCR No. 226  
23 RUSSIN WILLIAMS REPORTING  
24 1608 Fifth Street, Northwest  
25 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And that lawsuit had 34 separate counts  
3 against the officers and the City of Farmington,  
4 correct?

5 A. I --

6 Q. It was a pretty long complaint, right?

7 A. To what I can recall, yes.

8 Q. Lots of allegations against the officers  
9 and the police department?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But none of the allegations were against  
12 Sergeant Anderson?

13 A. I don't believe so.

14 Q. And those -- that lawsuit sought damages  
15 for your personal injuries, right?

16 A. I believe so.

17 Q. You guys alleged that you had suffered some  
18 personal injuries during the arrest?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you were trying to get some  
21 compensation for your medical injuries and any  
22 distress that you were under?

23 A. I believe so.

24 Q. And that lawsuit settled in November of  
25 2005?

1 A. I believe so.

2 Q. Well, you were a part of that settlement,  
3 correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you had to sign off on that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. How much was the settlement for?

8 MR. MONTOYA: Objection. I believe that  
9 settlement is subject to a confidentiality provision,  
10 unless you can waive it on behalf of the City.

11 MS. LANGENWALTER: I'm not even going to  
12 get into that. I mean, the City has Sunshine Laws  
13 that it's subject to, so --

14 MR. MONTOYA: Yes, you can get it with a  
15 Freedom of --

16 MS. LANGENWALTER: So I don't think we need  
17 to --

18 MR. MONTOYA: -- with a New Mexico  
19 Inspection of Public Records Act. But I don't know  
20 that we are free to discuss it.

21 MS. LANGENWALTER: Fair enough.

22 Q. You were paid some money, correct?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. You got some money from that lawsuit?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

1 Q. And in exchange, you signed a piece of  
2 paper, releasing your claims against the City and  
3 against the officers, correct?

4 A. I believe so.

5 Q. And part of that release is that you had to  
6 sign it, saying that you understood the release and  
7 that you were releasing those claims, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And part of the release is that you  
10 released not only those claims, but any claims that  
11 you had up until that time, correct?

12 A. I believe so.

13 Q. Did the settlement apply to your mother, as  
14 well?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. And she signed it?

17 A. I would think so.

18 Q. What about your brother, Rene Barraza?

19 A. I would think so, too.

20 Q. They were also involved in the settlement?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And so their claims against the City and  
23 the officers would also be released, correct?

24 MR. MONTOYA: Objection, calls for a legal  
25 conclusion. You may respond.

1 A. Up until that point, yeah.

2 Q. They agreed to the same things you did,  
3 right?

4 A. Yeah.

5 MS. LANGENWALTER: Actually, we're going to  
6 start a new subject, a new item here. I've gotten a  
7 note that we need to switch tapes, when appropriate,  
8 so I think this would be an appropriate time.

9 MR. STEVENS: All right. This will  
10 conclude Tape 1. The time is 10:51. Thanks.

11 (Recess taken from 10:51 a.m. to 10:53 a.m.)

12 MR. STEVENS: This begins Tape 2. We're  
13 back on the record. The time now is 10:53.

14 Q. All right. I'm going to hand you what  
15 we'll mark as Exhibit 4, which is the letter on  
16 Mr. Adamson's letterhead here.

17 (Mata Exhibit 4 marked.)

18 Q. Is this the letter that you referred to  
19 when you were talking about your free speech?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Did you write this letter?

22 A. No, ma'am, I didn't.

23 Q. When did you learn that it had been  
24 written?

25 A. I believe, like, a few days after it was

1 MR. MONTOYA: Okay with me.

2 MS. LANGENWALTER: All right. Let's go off  
3 the record.

4 MR. STEVENS: The time is 11:19.

5 (Recess taken from 11:19 a.m. to 11:32 a.m.)

6 MR. STEVENS: We're back on the record.

7 The time now is 11:32.

8 Q. Exhibit 4, the letter from Ron Adamson, did  
9 you authorize Mr. Adamson to write that?

10 A. I wasn't even aware he had -- so it was  
11 already sent off to them.

12 Q. So you didn't authorize him to write it?

13 A. No.

14 Q. When did you find out about the criminal  
15 libel charge?

16 A. I believe, on the 1st of January or  
17 something. I got a letter in the mail.

18 Q. And that's how you found out? That was the  
19 first you heard of it; you got a letter?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. No officer showed up at your house to  
22 present it to you?

23 A. No.

24 Q. You weren't arrested?

25 A. No.

1 Q. You weren't handcuffed or put in a car?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You just got a letter in the mail?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. What did the letter say?

6 A. I can't remember exactly, other than I had  
7 to be in court on the 10th, I believe, at 8:00 in the  
8 morning, that there was criminal charges against me  
9 for criminal libel.

10 Q. The 10th of January?

11 A. I believe so.

12 Q. And until your court date, you were free to  
13 go about your business?

14 A. That's the way I took it.

15 Q. Yeah. You didn't have to report to the  
16 police station or stay in your house or anything like  
17 that?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Just life as normal until you went to  
20 court?

21 A. Ten days.

22 Q. Ten days?

23 A. (Witness nods.)

24 Q. When you went to court, were you arrested  
25 then?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Were you handcuffed?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Were you free to sit with your attorney and  
5 participate in the proceedings?

6 A. Actually, on that date, they showed us a  
7 video, saying that there was charges, in general, to  
8 everybody in the room, saying there was charges  
9 pending against them; I believe, advising, like,  
10 everyone in the room not to leave the county or go to  
11 any establishment that sells liquor, anything like  
12 that, because that could complicate matters and the  
13 matter that you were there for.

14 Q. So, other than being told that you  
15 shouldn't leave the county and that you shouldn't go  
16 to places with liquor, what other restrictions did  
17 you have?

18 A. There was -- I can't remember exactly.  
19 There's an outline of them, like -- I don't remember  
20 exactly what they were.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. No negative -- I know one of them was no  
23 negative contact with police.

24 Q. Okay. Now, were those suggestions on how  
25 to behave so that it didn't turn into something

1 more?

2 A. They might have been. Like I said, it --  
3 the video, you know, advised you to get an attorney,  
4 if you didn't already have one, and --

5 Q. So that first time that you went to court  
6 was just a general meeting with a bunch of people?

7 A. Well, no, I guess the -- after the video,  
8 the judge called us one by one up there.

9 Q. What happened when you went up there?

10 A. He read me the charges that were pending  
11 against me, and that's pretty much it, I believe.

12 Q. Were you arrested at that point?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Were you taken into custody?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did you get handcuffs put on you?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Were you free to leave?

19 A. After the court.

20 Q. Uh-huh.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You were free to leave? And did the judge  
23 tell you anything, any restrictions that you weren't  
24 allowed to do?

25 A. I don't recall. I can't remember.

1                   I think he said that I'd have to go back  
2 again if they sent me a notice; or I don't know if  
3 they set a date right there, when I'd have to go  
4 back.

5                 Q.    But between the time that you were before  
6 the judge and whatever your next court date was, you  
7 were free to leave and go about your business?

8                 A.    Yes.

9                 Q.    How many times did you go to court?

10                A.    I can't remember exactly, but I -- I can't  
11 remember.

12                Q.    Were you ever held at the court or in jail  
13 for those charges?

14                A.    No.

15                Q.    Let's look at page five of the Second  
16 Amended Complaint, Exhibit 2, the very last  
17 paragraph, 31, and that states that, "Although  
18 Plaintiff was initially convicted of all counts in  
19 magistrate court, which is presided over by a  
20 non-attorney judge, the proceedings in that court  
21 routinely" -- "suffer routinely and suffered in this  
22 case from various procedural irregularities."

23                Is that right? What irregularities  
24 occurred in your case?

25                A.    Once again, I'm not an attorney. You'd

1 Q. And then you were acquitted of the charges,  
2 when you appealed the decision, right?

3 A. Before being acquitted, the judge threw one  
4 of the charges out, the criminal libel.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And I had to go to trial for the other two,  
7 and that was for the ones I got acquitted on.

8 Q. So you had an opportunity to present your  
9 case and then to appeal it, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then, ultimately, you were acquitted?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. During any of that time, did you spend any  
14 time in jail for those charges?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Were you prohibited from going about your  
17 business in any way?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How?

20 A. The restrictions that were set up by the  
21 courts.

22 Q. What restrictions were those?

23 A. No negative contact with police and not  
24 leaving the county.

25 Q. Did you have plans to leave the county and

1 conduct committed with actual malice and disregard  
2 for the truth," I -- all I done was sign a petition,  
3 picketed. My nephew videotaped the incident. I gave  
4 Ron Adamson the videotape, and, I mean, why would  
5 charges need to come about, if all I had done -- if I  
6 didn't do nothing wrong?

7 Q. So you think it's false that there were  
8 several prior and subsequent incidents? Is that  
9 correct?

10 A. No, I'm not saying that. What I'm saying  
11 is, like, why would charges need to come about if  
12 I -- what I've done wasn't -- I didn't commit no  
13 offense.

14 Q. Would you agree that there were several  
15 prior and subsequent incidents in -- which you  
16 committed with actual malice against Officer Briseno?

17 → You don't like Officer Briseno, do you?

18 A. I don't know the man.

19 Q. Well, you don't know him.

20 A. I've never spoke to him, talked to him or  
21 anything.

22 Q. But you -- have you accused him of being a  
23 dirty cop?

24 A. By the things he does, yeah.

25 Q. Okay. And you've said that he's a liar?

1           A. I never said that exactly. These were on  
2 the picketing signs that were made by, like I said,  
3 different people in the community.

4           Q. And you were holding those signs.

5           A. I was holding a sign. I don't know which  
6 one specifically.

7           Q. Did you pick a sign based on what you  
8 personally believed about Officer Briseno, or did you  
9 just pick one up?

10          A. I picked one up.

11          Q. And those signs included statements that he  
12 was a dirty cop and a liar, right?

13          A. I'm pretty sure. There -- I rotated signs.  
14 There was -- like I said, there was a bunch of them,  
15 and I would pick one up, throw it down, pick another  
16 one up.

17            
18          Q. And you testified in your deposition in  
19 November, or in 2005, that you made a number of  
videos of Officer Briseno, right?

20          A. Yes, ma'am.

21          Q. Including one that you made when you were  
22 driving?

23          A. I didn't make it.

24          Q. Who made it?

25          A. My nephew.